

April 12, 2013

ATTN: INTERNATIONAL TAX REFORM WORKING GROUP

Dear Representative Nunes and Blumenaur,

I am writing to ask that the International Taxation Committee of the Ways & Means Committee for Tax Reform seriously consider the American Citizens Abroad proposal for reform TO Residency-based taxation RBT, in place of the current Citizen-based taxation regime.

As one of 7 million American citizens living, working and voting from abroad and contributing to the economic growth of the U.S. economy, I believe most firmly in the innate justice of such a change.

Here's my story (unfortunately not untypical): As a permanent resident of Belgium since 1985, and an American and Belgian citizen, widow of a Belgian, in order to become US tax compliant since my husband's death in 2008, I have paid AROUND \$32,130 to Belgian tax specialists, lawyers and my ING Belgian bank for assistance. For this four year period through 2011, I owed the U.S. government approximately \$2,000 IN TOTAL. Unreal!

Now, the ING bank which my husband's family business (and he and I) have used for generations, disallows me any further investment possibilities through them. (I'm advised to find a private investment firm to help me, if I can find one, and at significant expense.) The bank evidently doesn't choose to contend with the myriad of complicated reporting requirements demanded by the IRS and U.S. Treasury for their American clients. So, my "foreign" bank literally down the street from my home used for modest financial administration over many years is divesting itself of me. This move seriously jeopardizes my ability to support myself adequately. At 73, alone and partly immobilized, my possibilities are dim under the current American Citizen-based taxation system.

A further irony is that even though I now assiduously report all my monies both to the U.S. AND Belgian authorities, pursuant to the Belgian/American tax treaty which few I've encountered truly understand, I find myself losing at every turn. Complications aside, in my situation the Belgian government and tax specialists currently derive considerably more from me than the American. What a twist!

I thank you for your diligent consideration of the ACA recommendation. It's impact will undoubtedly importantly affect Americans overseas not only in their ability to live with more ease in foreign lands, but also aid them in competing for jobs and help grow the American economy through international business and exports.

Yours sincerely, Marie R.Drobin, [REDACTED]

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